

Message Text

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71

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PASS-00 EB-11 AID-20 NEA-10 IO-14

COME-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /196 W
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R 260909Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1371

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

USUN NEW YORK 317

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1585

DEPT PASS CINCLANT FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SO

SUBJ: OCT 21 ANNIVERSARY

1. SUMMARY: SIAD'S OCT 21 SPEECH WAS RESTRAINED "STATE OF UNION" MESSAGE WHICH COVERED PROBLEMS AHEAD AS WELL AS PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS. UNLIKE PREVIOUS YEARS, IT CONTAINED NO DRAMATIC ANNOUNCEMENTS. HE SAID 1974 WOULD BE "YEAR OF THE ECONOMY", EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF COOPERATIVES, AND PUT HIGHEST PRIORITY ON AGRICULTURE. HE ALSO SAID A CONGRESS WOULD BE CONVENED "IN THE COMING FUTURE" TO ORGANIZE A TRUE SOCIALIST POLITICAL PARTY. ALTHOUGH HE GAVE STRONG SUPPORT TO ARABS IN THE MIDEAST WAR, PRIMARY EMPHASIS GIVEN AFRICAN MATTERS, INCLUDING ETHIOPIAN BORDER ISSUE. OVERALL, WE THINK CONTENT OF SPEECH AND ATMOSPHERE OF CELEBRATIONS REPRESENT ENCOURAGING MOVE TOWARD

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EMPHASIS ON DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS AND DOWNGRADING OF ETHOBPIAN

BORDER PROBLEM. END SUMMARY

2. SIAD'S MAJOR ADDITION TO PRE-PRINTED ENGLISH TEXT (POUCHED DEPARTMENT) WAS ON MIDEAST WAR, STRONGLY SUPPORTING ARABS. (PRE-PRINTED TEXT HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN PREPARED PRIOR TO OUT-BREAK OF HOSTILITIES.) IN CONTRAST TO PREVIOUS YEARS, SPEECH INCLUDED NO DRAMATIC NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS. SIAD REMARKED ON THIS IN SPOKEN VERSION, SAYING "THE REVOLUTION WILL COME UP WITH NEW DECISIONS WHENEVER NECESSARY", RATHER THAN ON THE ANNIVERSARY DATE.

3. SIAD ANNOUNCED "1974 TO BE THE YEAR OF THE ECONOMY". HE STATED THAT "BASIC STRUCTURE OF ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION WILL BE THAT OF COOPERATIVES", SUPPORTED BY OTHER ARRANGEMENTS WHERE COOPERATIVES NOT FEASIBLE. LARGER PRODUCTIVE UNITS TO BE IN PUBLIC SECTOR; MEDIUM AND SMALL-SCALE UNITS TO BE ORGANIZED ON COOPERATIVE, GROUP, OR INDIVIDUAL BASES. THERE WAS NO DIRECT REFERENCE TO ANY POSITIVE ROLE FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR OR FOR PRIVATE FOREIGN INVESTMENT. PRIORITY TO BE GIVEN TO AGRICULTURAL, LIVESTOCK, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES.

4. SIAD TWICE REFERRED TO SUBJECT OF POLITICAL OFFICE OF THE SRC. HE SAID "BEST ELEMENTS" OF THIS OFFICE WILL ORGANIZE "IN THE COMING FUTURE A CONGRESS OF OUR WORKING MASSES...TO DECIDE ON THE FORM, STRUCTURE AND CONTENT OF A TRUE SOCIALIST PARTY" WHICH WILL BE THE POLITICAL INSTRUMENT OF THE PEOPLES' POWER". HE WARNED AGAINST REACTIONARIES WHO APPEAR IN SEVERAL FORMS: "THEY MAY CALL THEMSELVES MARXISTS, PROGRESSISTS, OR TAKE ANY OTHER QUALIFICATION WHICH MAY PERMIT THEM TO CONFUSE THE MASSES, DISTORT OUR EFFORTS AND FRUSTRATE OUR ASPIRATION". COMMENT: SIAD THUS APPROACHED SENSITIVE ISSUE OF POLITICAL PARTY VERY GINGERLY, AFFIRMING ITS DESIRABILITY AND IMPLYING EARLY ACTION WITHOUT ACTUALLY SAYING WHEN OR HOW -- A QUESTION ABOUT WHICH WE FEEL HE HIMSELF STILL HAS SERIOUS RESERVATIONS. HIS REFERENCE TO "MARXIST REACTIONARIES" PROBABLY REFERS TO THOSE LEFTIST INTELLECTUALS (BOTH SOMALI AND FOREIGN) WHO WANT TO SEE A COMMUNIST PARTY SET UP NOW. SIAD SEEMS TO BE REMINDING THEM THAT HE, NOT THEY, WILL BE DECIDING POLITICAL QUESTIONS.

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6. FOREIGN POLICY SECTION SETS FORTH GSDR'S "ACTIVE NEUTRALITY" LINE IN GENERAL CONTEXT OF "LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN AFRICA, ASIA, AND LATIN AMERICA" AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM. IN SPOKEN VERSION, SIAD STRENGTHENED SHORT PASSAGE IN WRITTEN TEXT GIVING GENERAL SUPPORT TO ARABS AND EXCLUDED SINGLE REFERENCE TO US-ISRAELI AGGRESSION. MOST IMPORTANT SECTION DEALS WITH ETHIOPIAN BORDER DISPUTE AND SOMALIA'S "OCCUPIED TERRITORIES".

ON ONE HAND SIAD SAID GS DR ABHORS USE OF FORCE AND WANTS PEACEFUL, NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT; ON THE OTHER HE INVEIGHS AGAINST ETHIOPIAN MASSING OF MILITARY FORCES ON THE BORDER, OBSTRUCTIONISM IN OAU SUMMIT, AND CONTINUING TENSION BECAUSE OF IEG "OBSTINACY". ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR TELLS US HE CONSIDERS LATTER LANGUAGE MOST PROVOCATIVE AND FEELS EMPEROR MUST REPLY DURING THRONE SPEECH THIS WEEK. WE COMMENTED THAT WE HOPE EMPEROR COULD FOCUS ON POSITIVE ASPECTS OF SIAD'S REMARKS.

7. COMMENT: MOOD OF OCT 21 CELEBRATION RESTRAINED. LARGE CROWDS WERE VERY SUBDUED. ALTHOUGH SIAD'S SPEECH CONTAINED POSITIVE REFERENCES TO AFRICAN LIBERATION AND HE MADE PREDICTABLE NOISES ABOUT MIDDLE EAST AND DANGERS OF NEO-COLONIALISM AND IMPERIALISM, MAJOR THRUST WAS SOBER APPRAISAL OF PROGRESS THAT REGIME HAD ACHIEVED AND TREMENDOUS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS IT STILL FACED. IT APPEARED BY NO MEANS ACCIDENTAL THAT, ALTHOUGH SEVERAL AFRICAN MINISTERS AND LIBERATION COMMITTEE LUMINARIES WERE IN ATTENDANCE, SIAD GAVE PLACE OF HONOR TO VISITING EEC DIRECTOR GENERAL. FACT THAT THIS OBVIOUSLY CAREFULLY PLANNED SPEECH WAS SO DOMESTICALLY ORIENTED IS ENCOURAGING. DOMESTIC THEME STRONGLY CONTRASTS WITH PREOCCUPATION ON ETHIOPIAN ISSUE DURING PAST YEAR. WE WOULD NOT GO SO FAR AS TO PREDICT 1974 WILL FULFILL SIAD'S PROMISE OF ECONOMIC POLICY PRIMACY. BUT IT IS A GOOD START.
KIRK

NOTE BY OC/T: PASSED CINCLANT.

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